

RE: Support Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

**01/25/23**

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Rachel Slocum and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in strong support for Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579.

The right to vote is enshrined in our constitution and fundamental to a vibrant and participatory democracy. Yet, around 12,000 people in Oregon are currently denied their right to vote, leading to the disproportionate disenfranchisement of low-income, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people. Guaranteeing the Right to Vote fulfills the promise of our democracy and addresses racial and socioeconomic inequities. I am not alone in my support for this important bill. Incarcerated people are members of our society. By denying them the vote, Oregon indicates that they are not.

Please ensure that Guaranteeing the Right to Vote, SB 579, is passed out of committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Rachel Slocum